

# ASIAN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS FORUM

STANDING COMMITTEE 2024/11/01

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01 NOVEMBER 2024 / 8:30 AM / PEONY SUITE, WESTIN JOSUN HOTEL, BUSAN

## ATTENDEES

Dr. Jekuk Chang; President; Dongseo University

Dr. MD Sabur Khan; Founder and Chairman; Daffodil University

Dr. Mathana Santiwat; Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees & Former President; Bangkok University

Dr. Yan Xiangbin; President; Guangdong University of Foreign Studies

Dr. Djwantoro Hardjito; Rector; Petra Christian University

Dr. Kengo Nagatsuna; President; Asia University; Japan

Mr. Sankar Viswanathan; Vice President; Vellore Institute of Technology

Facilitator: Dean Kyongho Kenneth Hahn (Dongseo University)

## AGENDA

1. ASP 2025 Host
2. ASP 2024 Report
3. AUPF 2025
4. AUPF 2026
5. AAU Implementation Plan
6. BUSAN Declaration

## NOTES

1. [REPORT] Bangkok reported problems regarding AFW 2024. Invitations were sent late and overseas universities did not attend. AFW 2024 occurred with local Thai universities only.

Petra will host ASP 2025. They have also agreed to host the AFW 2025. Petra requested a condition that the standing committee members promise to send their faculty to the events. Petra will decide the topic at a later date.

2. [REPORT] ASP 2024 (DSU). Despite hesitation, DSU decided to host the event as offline only. Attendance included 370 students from 17 countries. Students took two courses (liberal arts/humanities). Feedback was positive with students saying they wished that the event was longer. Petra to host next year. DSU commits to sending students.
3. Guangdong will host AUPF 2025. This coincides with GDUFS 60th anniversary.

- a. 1995 (Guangdong University of Foreign Languages). REF: WIKIPEDIA:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guangdong\\_University\\_of\\_Foreign\\_Studies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guangdong_University_of_Foreign_Studies)
4. AUPF 2026: Vellore University Information Technology will host.
5. AUPF Implementation Plan  
DSU and members discussed the - AAU implementation plan. Members commented as below:
  - a. Sabur Khan: make AUPF feel active as stakeholders. For long term success and stability - Sabur Khan recommended members joining as stakeholders - this could be achieved in various ways - such as sharing the burden of funding, introducing students from their own university, or adding their own course material.
  - b. DSU can set Key performance indicators to measure progress.
  - c. DSU will prepare a detailed proposal to make a plan to identify issues and develop a basic framework.
  - d. Djwantoro Hardjito - “can we consider offline agreements in AAU” - also stated that the young generation need to have social and cultural exposure - this is very important and cannot be replaced with technological solutions.
  - e. AAU = blended - online + offline - credits are collected and then as junior students can transfer
6. Busan Declaration
  - a. Members agreed on the following statement to be confirmed as the AUPF 2024 “Busan Declaration”:

### **2024 AUPF Declaration**

In 2024, we university presidents gathered in Busan to strengthen the transformative role of education in the digital revolution. Through this forum, Asian universities have resolved to achieve the following goals and vision:

1. First, we will strengthen interdisciplinary education through digital innovation. By fostering a collaborative digital learning environment, we aim to prepare future generations for the challenges and opportunities of the era of digital technology.
2. Second, we will expand access to global learning and strengthen experiential learning. This includes developing online and offline programs to provide quality education to students from diverse regions. We will also increase students' international mobility to provide project-based learning opportunities.
3. Third, to help achieve the above two goals, we have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Asia Alliance University platform, fostering sustainable development and cooperation among Asian universities.

This declaration reflects our commitment to educational innovation in Asia, and we agree to continue working together to develop the future of education for the new generation.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

1. Mathana Santiwat - asked about UNIMAP- are they still interested in AUPF/ASP participation?
2. UNIMAP is next in line as host of AUPF - need to gauge interest. If they are still interested they should be ASP 2026 hosts.
3. Standing members need to discuss the sustainability of the AUPF. For long-term prospects the organization may need to boost membership.
4. Members requested that GDUFS update the homepage.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. **PETRA - host ASP2025 & AFW 2025.**
2. **Guangdong - will host AUPF 2025**
3. **VIT - will host AUPF 2026**
4. **Further contact required to UNIMAP regarding continuing AUPF/ASP participation**
5. **[DSU] - [AAU IMPLEMENTATION PLAN] prepare a detailed proposal to make a plan to identify issues and develop a basic framework. This will be shared with relevant parties.**